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Letter to Philander Chase Jr

Philander Chase

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My dear very dear Son Philander

I am going to write you a long letter; but when I shall be able to finish it, I know not.

I want to mention many, very many things; but, I fear, I shall, some how or other, forget, as I commonly do, above half.

I have now your dear Brother Dudley in my arms, and a finer, Boy you never saw. He is teasing me to make him a picture, and tell him a story. For, you must know, he can talk quite plain & can say all his letters. I ask him how much he loves his dear Brother Philander? He says "So much holding his hands extended wide and as high as he can. You see how he has made me blot my paper."

Did ever restless, like all his kindred of the human race, how proved tired of the confinement in his father's arms, and gone into the other room to see his Mother. But, God ever bless and protect her - is but in a weak and very delicate state of health.

The anticipation of seeing you next fall, joined with the very great pleasure of perpetually talking of you, keeps up her spirits - and I hope for the best. To tell you the truth she is in ^{same situation} precisely the same this day, two years ago: Would to God her health were as good now as then! - Pray for her my dear Son, that her hairs and perils may be increased on her in mercy; and that, in God's good time, she may make happy both you and me. This is one of the things I wished you to know: for you should know it - that your prayers may be more fervent

The next thing I wished to mention to you is the books left behind. — I find my library in a very mangled state. — George has many of my books with him, which you must not fail to get. I have no set of Leabury's Sermons, as common as they were, in my house, last year! A Mr MacLean of Wintonbury, has a set which he borrowed of me; but never returned. These, or some other. Two or three sets, you must get, if you can. I will subjoin a Catalogue of such volumes, as are wanting in my library and you must make it a primary article in your memoranda of things to fetch with you.

In the next place I wish to speak with you on the subject of our Church, our primitive Zion in this state. What we have done will ^{the} appear, in a good degree, by the Minutes of Conventions held in Columbus on the fifth of Jan: 1817. Notwithstanding all our difficulties, and they are not a few, I'll assure you, we have more to rejoice in, than could have been expected. Much aid from above we need, to guard us from foes without & keep us in peace within. — Therefore pray for us here also: and let your supplications want neither constancy nor zeal.

And did we forget your loved friends at Brooklyn 110, my son. They and my dear grandmother Par
sons at Hartford came rushing on our fond
remembrance like the grateful showers in May
to give life and sweetness to all we said and did.
— I wish my pen and ink were better I would say
more on this delightful theme. But my fingers
are stiff by reason of hard labour. Indeed you
know not how many things I have in my
hands to. — With Heaven's blessings I can de-
termine not to want. Besides one great mo-
tive which spurs me on is the great desire I have
to have things in such advancement and taste
that when you come I may deserve your praise.
— Remember then, when you approach my
plantation that when I came in it, last July,
it was nearly a desert overgrown with brush &
briars and encumbered with logs. But I am tired
as no doubt you are. Good night.

Feb. 3 - 1818.

A storm most furiously. Snow nearly horizontally fills
the whole face of nature. We have had little or
no sledding though we rejoice for the prospect afford-
ed us of getting about and of carrying on to
the mill & bringing home our boards.
I have been on my tour to the North mentioned above
; found all well and prospering; but on my return
found our bill for a College had been suspended for
the present till the first day of next session of the
next Legislature. That we shall eventually succeed
there can be but little doubt. The Lower House

passed our Act of College Privileges with out a voice
against it. The Upper House did the same till
it came to the Third reading when some friend
moved an amendment much, perhaps too
much, in our favour which caused a debate giving
rise to some warmth & length of debate.
This proved unpleasant and caused an unexpected
motion for postponement till next term of the
Legislature to prevail by a small majority.
Thus God would have it for our trial; let us
be submissive and not remit our duty.

Last night I sent off by mail the minutes
or journals of our Convention to the four towns.
— One I inscribed for you & another for
Col. Putnam & another for Bp. Griswold
&c &c. For fear of a misarrangement as is frequently
the case with such trifles I'll send another
with this; the expense of postage will not be
great I'll assure you.

I can't now lay my hands on the cata-
logue of Wanted Books of my Library.
If I do not send it you in form look about
you from this day forward till the day of your
departure for this; and leave not a volume
behind. Also bring every thing else rare or valuable
you can come honestly by. Bring a remark of letter paper
my paper is out; I must take another sheet.

Young George Allen Brother to Wm Allen of Penn
but is with us. If we mutually agree, he has agreed
to live with me and work on my farm for one
year. He is quite indisposed for the present hav-
ing taken a violent cold and accumulated mud-
dles on his strength. By the force of medi-
cines and emetics he is notwithstanding the
severity of his attack now recovering.

Yours dear Good Mother forget her own in-
firmities and is happy in the effects of her
skill. What should we all do without her!

The time of Making Sugar soon is at
hand. I am making great preparations
to manufacture to make some good Weight. Would that you
were here to partake of our Sweets!

Whoever in our family is the champion at
grapple respects in this way Dad is not one of that
number I'll assure you; for his fondness for
grapple sugar exceeds that of his ancestors.
He can grapple with a lump as big as his
head. A bad cold which has been ex-
perienced here has not passed over this dear
little fellow; but its ravages on his darling
dark cheek are now scarcely visible: the
color to his lovely face and the brillian-
cy to his enchanting eye have returned:
There he sits with peculiar fascination
when with out stretch arms & lifted head
he tells how much he loves Bro & Sister.

I've rec'd a copy of the best of letters from Mr.
Sigourney. & what a worthy man is this! —
My love and respect for him have increased
with the distance of space & time which
separate us. Especially now when he is suffer-
ing the pangs of a loving & is comparable
wife does his dear image call forth all
the tender sympathies of my nature.
How devoutly do I pray the Good God
to support and comfort him! — That
he should have thought of poor me
as a proper person to take charge of
his loved children in case of his own
premature death is what I can scarcely
believe. Yet this he mentions in this
letter to me with so much sincere ten-
derness that I never read it over (which
I do very often) without tears. You must
go to Hartford if practicable before
you set off for Vermont on your way
to see all my dear friends there —
hear what they say & treasure it up
in matter and form in your note book
— Keep while there; like Ja Bowell a re-
cord of every conversation: for I love these
people & treasure more than what
shall I say? — Would it be hyperbol-
ic to say more than the whole

would before? — Were I to say it I should
have abundant reason in the many un-
exampled kindnesses they've shewn me.
But you'll say where are the Putnam
& Mr Brinley? — Why my son, they're iden-
tified with the Watford Parish: and that's
enough.

and now my dear Son Phil —
Say your prayers — speak the truth —
Love and serve your friends — do good
& pray for your enemies — Study
your book — Exercise your body
Trust in God & keep yourself cleave
d from the world — Then mount
thence you fly to the crown
The fondest of Fathers

Tell Mr & Mrs Suda that
I am not in great letter
yet I dream of them and
them in the glass of fond remem-
brance almost constantly —
— My health is better tho you
hardly know me. I've lost full
ten inches of my circumference.

8.
For I would not, such is my foolish fondness
have this for ten thousand times its value
to others. Bear this in mind as you have
a fond father's shims.

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William Chase
The Senior Class
Harvard College
Cambridge
Massachusetts

Wm. F. Northrup
Ct.

I am some how or other lost my volume
which I preached on the 2^d Christmas I spoke
in Hart. — You on The Brooklyn people
took a copy of this. — You remember it
was topographical anachronological &c
&c &c — but I don't remember the text
— Heterogeneous & nonsensical as it may be
a copy you must remember you must bring down